

Re: Broadband Over Power Line, Proceeding 01-104,

In evaluating potential interference issues with regard to this proposed mode, it is important to recognize the significance of low-level unintended radiation to other services. Although many of the most publicly visible services might be unaffected by fairly high-level interfering signals, those services characterized by research and development activities, including The Amateur Radio Service, can be severely impacted by even a small increase in the level of the noise floor.

Please note that the Amateur Radio Service, in addition to its widely-noted Public Service record in emergencies, has spawned a significant fraction of the innovations in communications technology developed since the beginning of radio. This is an unchallenged, but less visible, record of response to its charter under Part 97.

The ability to improve existing communications modes and to develop new technologies will be compromised by any increase in the noise floor. The degree to which increases in low-level broadband interference are allowed as a way to proliferate more “Spam”, pornography, and free advertising must be balanced against the needs of this Nation to continue to lead the world in communications innovation.

Radio Amateurs working from their homes, unlike research institutions with access to RF-free laboratories, will, as they have for decades, continue to “Advance the Radio Art” [Part 97.1(b)] unless hampered by an unnecessarily high broadband noise floor.

The “Broadband over Power Line” mode, unless implemented with full regard to prevention of low-level interference, has the potential to prevent the Amateur Radio Service from full compliance with its charter under Part 97.

Thank you for your consideration of this brief comment.

Very Truly Yours,  
Charles M. Lewis